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Department of Political Science Awards Luncheon

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Department of Political Science Awards Luncheon
Dr. John M. Dunn
April 14, 2009

- Good afternoon. And thank you for inviting me to be part of this celebration of student success. The last two months of the academic year are full of celebrations like this--all across the campus. They're an opportunity to honor you for what you've accomplished, but also for your professors and people like me to reflect on where higher education can take our students.
- Congratulations to each of you being honored this afternoon. I know the friendly but intense competition that characterizes your department. You clearly found your intellectual home and are thriving as you prepare for a great career.
- This is a research university and the faculty and students in our foundational academic disciplines have always been on the leading edge among their peers. No where is this more evident than political science, which first appeared in 1904 at Western State Normal School as a course listing called "History and Civics."
- It's 105 years later and this department has been the academic home to so many of the University's great professors and compelling student opportunities. Just a few of them are:
 - The Capitol Internship Program through which nearly 200 students have enjoyed Lansing internships:
 - The University's Mock Trial team; and
 - The Institute of Government and Politics, which has brought great scholars and new ideas to campus.

- This hotbed of intellectual inquiry has given birth to Udall and Truman scholars and a number of local, state and federal officeholders, including one congressman, Howard Wolpe (WOELpee), who left his post as a faculty member here to launch an influential political career.
- And you know, wherever I travel I find Broncos in leadership roles in government and the many agencies that serve our nation. One is a lawyer for the Environmental Protection Agency. Another serves as a State Department officer at the embassy in the Dominican Republic. Another is a public housing advocate in Washington.
- And our alumni are serving as leaders in other nations--Qatar is good example of a nation whose students have come here and gone on to become ambassadors to this nation and others.
- Finding Broncos in such locations never surprises me. I've come to expect it. I expect to see you in one of those roles in the future.
- This is a department that has a global impact and you should be proud of your accomplishments here and the honors you have earned from such a department.
- Congratulations, and enjoy your celebration today. You've earned it.